

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/JP03/16762A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
Int.Cl⁷ G06F15/00, G06F12/14

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
Int.Cl⁷ G06F15/00, G06F12/14, G06F13/00, G06F17/60Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1922-1996 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2004
Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971-2004 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1996-2004Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
Computer Software Data Base (Japanese Patent Office) : Japanese

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|--|-----------------------|
| X | JP 2003-178164 A (Fujitsu Ltd.), 27 June, 2003 (27.06.03), | 1, 3 |
| Y | 30, 40 and 43 of Fig. 1, (6) and (8) of Fig. 3, Fig. 13 and explanation of the drawings thereof. (Family: none) | 2, 4 |
| Y | JP 2002-124891 A (Hitachi, Ltd.), 26 April, 2002 (26.04.02), Par. Nos. [0002], [0004], [0013], [0032], [0033] (Family: none) | 2 |
| Y | WO 02/101523 A2 (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD.), 19 December, 2002 (19.12.02), Step of S23, S24 and S27 in Fig. 41 and step of S224 and S228. & JP 2003-058660 A | 4 |

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

| | | |
|---|-----|--|
| * Special categories of cited documents: | "T" | later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention |
| "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance | "X" | earlier document but published on or after the international filing date |
| "E" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) | "Y" | document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone |
| "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means | "&" | document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art |
| "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed | | document member of the same patent family |

Date of the actual completion of the international search
02 February, 2004 (02.02.04)Date of mailing of the international search report
17 February, 2004 (17.02.04)Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Japanese Patent Office

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:

because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.:

because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.:

because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

The technical feature common to all of claims 1-4 is the one disclosed in claim 1. However, this technical feature is not novel since it is disclosed in document JP 2003-178164 A (Fujitsu, Ltd.), 27 June, 2003 (27.07.03), 30, 40, 43 in Fig. 1, (8) in Fig. 3, Fig. 13, and description associated with them. Accordingly, the technical feature common to claims 1-4 makes no contribution over the prior art and cannot be a special technical feature within the meaning of PCT Rule 13.2, second sentence. Consequently, no technical relationship within the meaning of PCT Rule 13.2 between the inventions of claims 1-4 can be seen. Therefore, the inventions of claims 1-4 do not satisfy the requirement of unity of invention.

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.